

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /073 W
-----065781 171142Z /21

O 171115Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3504
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 01756

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AG, LY, MO, SP
SUBJECT: ALGERIA

1. WHEN I SAW FONMIN OREJA FEBRUARY 16 I FOUND HIM TROUBLED AND PERPLEXED ABOUT SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA. SPAIN WANTS TO HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA BUT FINDS THIS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. ALGERIA HAD NO CLEAR FOREIGN POLICY OUTLINE AND BOUMEDIENE'S TRIPS GIVE NO REAL CLUE. SPAIN HAD WITHDRAWN ITS AMBASSADOR FROM ALGIERS ON DECEMBER 23 IN PROTEST OVER AN ARTICLE IN THE FLN NEWSPAPER CHALLENGING SPAIN'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANARIES. HOWEVER, ON THE EVE OF THE TRIPOLI MEETING OF THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE, OREJA HAD THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO HAVE THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR GO BACK FOR A DAY OR SO TO REVIEW WITH THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT SPAIN'S VIEWS WITH REGARD TO THE CANARIES, THE SAHARA, AND RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA. OREJA GAVE ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT NOT MUCH HAD COME OUT OF THE MEETING THE AMBASSADOR HAD HELD WITH THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR, AND THAT SPANISH RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA CONTINUED IN THEIR
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PRESENT SAD STATE. MUCH NOW WOULD DEPEND ON ALGERIAN BEHAVIOR AT THE TRIPOLI MEETING.

2. OREJA SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS OF DON JUAN'S VISIT TO TRIPOLI, PARTICULARLY SINCE QADHAFI HAS SO FAR REMAINED SILENT ABOUT THE CANARIES. HE HAD LEARNED THAT A SHORT TIME AFTER DON JUAN HAD BEEN TO

TRIPOLI, QADHAFI HAD TELEPHONED TO BOUMEDIENE TO URGE
HIM TO SUSPEND CUBILLO'S BROADCASTS TO THE CANARY
ISLANDS. STABLER

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